

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MIHAMA UNITS 1 AND 2 STEAM GENERATORS

REF: 1. STATE 116712, 2. STATE 147084

1. BW 5/16/75 NEWS ITEM ON MIHAMA UNIT 2 STEAM GENERATOR (SG)

AS REQ. IN REF 2 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975, THE JAPAN TIMES.

THIN TUBE TROUBLE. FUKUI (KYODO). PARA.

KANSAI ELECTRIC POWER CO., TUESDAY TOLD THE FUKUI PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT THAT THINNING OF STEAM GENERATOR TUBES APPEAR TO HAVE CAUSED A RADIATION LEAK FROM A REACTOR OF ITS NUCLEQR POWER PLANT IN MIHAMA, FUKUI PREFECTURE, ON JAN. 8.

PARA. NUCLEAR ENERGY ENGINEERS FOUND THAT 266 OF THE 6,520 STEAM GENERTOR TUBES OF THE MIHAMA REACTOR NO. 2 WITH A GENERATION CAPACITY OF 500,000 KILOWATTS HAD BECOME VERY THIN, ONE OF THEM DEVELOPING SIX PINHOLES ON IT.

PARA. ON JAN. 8, RADIOACTIVITY LEAKED FROM THE PRIMARY COOLANT OF THE WESTNGHOUSE PRESSURIZED LIGHT-WATER REACTOR INTO THE SECONDARY COOLING WATER. SINCE THEN, THE REACTOR HAS BEEN HALTED FOR EXAMINATION.

PARA. THINNING PHENOMENON OF STEAM GENERATOR TUBES IS PECULIAR TO A PRESSURIZED LIGHT-WATER REACTOR, AND NO SPECIFIC CAUSE IS KNOWN.

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PARA. THE MIHAMA REACTOR NO. 1 ALSO HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN SINCE JULY 17 LAST YEAR WHEN IT SUFFERED A RADIATION LEAK BECAUSE OF THE THINNING PHENOMENON ON 2,013 OF ITS 8,852 STEAM GENERATOR TUBES.

PARA. KANSAI ELECTRIC POWER'S ONLY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NOW IN OPERATION IS THE REACTOR NO. 1 AT TAKAHAMA, FUKUI PREFECTURE. END QUOTE.

2. OPERATING HISTORY OF MIHAMA I SINCE SG LEAK FIRST DETECTED AS REPORTED IN PRESS:

JUNE 13, 1972 - SG LEAK DETECTED IN STEAM GENERATOR A.
JUNE 15, 1972 - REACTOR SHUT DOWN. ONE PINHOLD FOUND.
SEPT 20, 1972 - 49 DEFECTIVE TUBES FOUND. PIN HOLES AND WALL THINNING.
DEC 9, 1972 - RESUME OPERATION AT REDUCED POWER AFTER 110 TUBES PLUGGED.
MAR 15, 1973 - SHUTDOWN FOR PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION. 1621 TUBES PLUGGED.
JULY 15, 1973 - 278 MORE TUBES PLUGGED.
AUG 9, 1973 - TEST OPERATION BEGAN AT 100 MW AND INCREASED TO 200 MW.
JULY 17, 1974 - NEW SG LEAKAGE DETECTED. TWO TUBES WITH PINHOLES DETECTED. CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 2013 OF 8852 TUBES PLUGGED. PLUGGING ABOUT EQUAL IN TWO SG'S. REACTOR HAS NOT RESUMED OPERATION.

3. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, REF. 1, ON STATUS AND OPERATING DETAILS MIHAMA UNIT 1. REF 2, PARA 3, UNIT 1 RESTARTED USING PHOSPHATES TO INHIBIT SECONDARY SYSTEM. NO OTHER INHIBIT HAS BEEN USED IN UNIT 1.
REF 2, PARA 4, NOT APPLICABLE.
REF 2, PARA. 5, PHOSPHATES. ALL VOLATILE TREATMENT WAS SUGGESTED BY WESTINGHOUSE LATE 1974 BU REACTOR HAS NOT RESTARTED AND KANSAI HAS NOT ANNOUNCED INTENTION ON SECONDARY WATER TREATMENT.
REF. 2, PARA. 5. EDDY CURRENT MEASUREMENTS OF WALL THICKNESSES WERE MADE DURING SHUT DOWNS NOTED IN PARA 2, ABOVE. ADD'L WALL THINNING WAS FOUND BETWEEN EACH STEAM GENERATOR INSPECTION
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HOWEVER, EDDY CURRENT TESTS IN SOME CASES WERE REPORTED TO BE IRREPRODUCIBLE AND INCONSISTENT. IN CASES WHERE WALL THINNING OF A PARTICULAR TUBE HAD BEEN INDICATED ON THE FIRST EXAMINATION, EDDY CURRENT TEST INDICATED TUBES RESTORED TO NORMAL WALL THICKNESS.
REF 2, PARA. 7, NO RETUBING HAS BEEN DONE OR IS PLANNED ON MIHAMA I STEAM GENERATOR.

4. A MEETING WITH MITI AND KANSAI EPCO IS BEING SET UP TO
DISCUSS MIHAMA I SG PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE EXCHANGE DISCUSSIONS
PER PARA 9, REF 1.
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